

Theory Guidelines for Festival Exams



Level 1

Identify whether notes are high or low.

Know the musical alphabet.

Identify line (L) notes or space (S) notes .

Know finger numbers.

Recognize melody direction – up, down, or same.

Terms

Piano

Forte

Repeat Sign

Treble (G) Clef

Whole note

Bass (F) Clef

Quarter Note

Half note

Level 2

Know all of the above plus the following:

Identify and write steps and skips on the staff.

Name notes on a keyboard.

Name and write line/space notes.

Fill in missing bar lines for 3 / 4 or 4 / 4 time using quarter notes, half notes, whole notes, dotted half notes, quarter rests, half rests, and whole rests.

Terms

mezzo forte

mezzo piano

whole rest

tie

crescendo

diminuendo (decre.)

half rest

quarter rest

legato

staccato

dotted half note

Level 3

All of the above plus the following:

Identify

Simple Intervals (all white keys, no quality)

Half/Whole steps

Major key signatures and scales in keys up to 2 sharps or 2 flats

Add bar lines in 2 / 4 time signature.

Add time signatures to 2 / 4, 3 / 4, 4 / 4 musical examples.

Complete measures with notes and rests.

(Level 3 continued on next page...)

Level 3 continued

Terms

accent	ritardando	8va	eighth rest
flat	sharp	natural	fermata
andante	allegro	eighth note	D.C. al fine

Level 4

All of the above plus the following:

Write and/or identify

Simple Intervals (number only, no quality) – may contain black keys.

Major scales. Be able to write the scales adding sharps or flats for keys with up to 4 sharps or 4 flats.

Major key signatures for keys with up to 4 sharps or 4 flats.

Major triads in root position for key signatures up to 4 sharps or 4 flats.

I chord in root position (tonic).

6/8 time signature.

Change triads from major to minor for keys with up to 4 sharps or 4 flats.

Triplets.

Terms

pianissimo (pp)	a tempo	sixteenth rest	vivace
rallentando	molto	meter	fortissimo
sixteenth note	poco a poco	common time	adagio

Level 5

All of the above plus the following:

Identify major and perfect intervals - may contain black notes as part of the interval.

Write and/or identify the following:

Major key signatures and major scales in keys up to 5 sharps and 5 flats.

Minor key signatures and harmonic minor scales in keys up to 3 sharps or flats with proper placement of accidentals.

Root position major triads in keys up to 5 sharps or flats.

I-IV-V (or V7) chords for major keys up to 3 sharps or flats using root or cadence positions.

Terms

transpose	sforzando (sfz)	maestoso	opus
tonic	animato	D.S. (Dal Segno)	alla breve
agitato	dominant	ostinato	

Level 6

All of the above plus the following:

Write and/or identify:

Number and quality of all intervals.

All major key signatures.

All minor key signatures in keys up to 5 sharps or 5 flats.

All major and harmonic minor scales in keys up to 5 sharps or 5 flats.

Augmented and diminished triads (root position) up to 4 sharps or 4 flats.

Add bar lines to rhythm section examples of increasing difficulty.

Terms

Meno	Presto	32 nd notes	32 nd rests
Dolce	subito	piu mosso	syncopation
Subdominant	meno mosso	largo	con brio
Tenuto	leggiero		

Level 7

All of the above plus the following:

Write and/or identify

All major key signatures and all major scales using key signatures or adding sharps or flats when needed.

All minor key signatures and all minor scales (3 forms) ascending and descending, adding sharps or flats as needed.

Triads in root and inversion positions (all key signatures).

Identify chords by Roman numeral and/or scale degree (I-tonic, IV-subdominant, etc.).

Transpose a melody.

Identify half, authentic, plagal, and deceptive cadences.

Terms

Supertonic	leading tone	cantabile	triton	giocoso
Double flat (bb)	double sharp (x)	median	pizzicato	pesante

Works of art make rules; rules do not make works of art. ~Claude Debussy
